

Press Release Index 2007

May

- 2 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Attorney General Bruning to Recognize National Day of Prayer
- 4 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Attorney General Bruning to Speak at Central Community College Commencement
- 4 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Attorney General Bruning to Speak at Central Community College Commencement
- 7 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Bruning To Speak at Domestic Violence Conference at Tumbleweed Café
- 8 Bruning Applauds Passage of Republican River Basin Study in U.S. House
- 8 Bruning Reaches \$719,500 Settlement with Drug Company Over Advertising Practices
- 11 Bruning Applauds Supreme Court Ruling in School Funding Case
- 14 Guest Column: Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Vacation
- 15 ***MEDIA ADVISORY*** Attorney General Bruning to Speak to County Attorneys Association
- 15 Former Chadron Police Dispatcher Sentenced in Child Death
- 16 *Consumer News* Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Summer Vacation
- 17 Attorney General Bruning Applauds Water Resources Development Act Passage
- 21 Home Health Assistant Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud Scheme
- 21 MySpace to Turn Over Sex Offender Names to Nebraska
- 23 Former Clarkson City Clerk Enters Plea For Stealing City Funds
- 25 Bruning Announces AMBER Alert Poster Contest Winners for National Missing Children's Day
- 30 Bruning Applauds Passage of Cyberstalking Bill

May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>*MA* National Day of Prayer</i>	3	4 <i>*MA* Speak at Central Community College commencement</i>	5
6	7 <i>*MA* To speak at Domestic Violence Conference at Tumblweed Cafe</i>	8 <i>Republican River Basin Study Settlement with Drug Co. over Advertising</i>	9	10	11 <i>Applauds SC Ruling in School Funding Case</i>	12
13	14 <i>Guest Column: Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Vacation</i>	15 <i>*MA* To Speak to County Attorney Ass. Dispatcher sentenced in Child Death</i>	16 <i>Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Summer Vacation</i>	17 <i>Applauds Water Resources Development Act Passage</i>	18	19
20	21 <i>Myspace to Turn Over sex offender names to NE, home health ass. Sentenced for Med Fraud</i>	22	23 <i>Clarkson City Clerk enters Plea for stealing City Funds</i>	24	25 <i>Amber Alert Poster Contest Winners for National Missing Children's Day</i>	26
27	28	29	30 <i>Applauds Passage of Cyberstalking Bill</i>	31		



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2007 1:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Applauds Passage of Cyberstalking Bill

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded the passage of LB 142 in the Nebraska Legislature. The bill makes it a crime to send sexually explicit material to minors using electronic communication devices, such as computers, e-mails and text messages.

State Senator Mike Friend introduced the bill in January as part of the Attorney General's legislative package. Sen. Pete Pirsch designated LB 142 his personal priority bill.

"Child predators have gone high-tech," Bruning said. "Updating our laws for the 21st Century was necessary to protect our families. Sen. Friend saw this, and I appreciate his leadership."

Under the cyberstalking bill, adults over 18 who knowingly send sexually explicit language and material to victims under 16 could be charged with a class IV felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Previously, no specific crime for sending sexually explicit material to minors existed. At best, the action could have been charged as a class I misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"Online sexual predators need to understand their behavior is completely intolerable and will be severely punished in Nebraska," Friend said. "This legislation gives prosecutors another tool for protecting our children."

###

An audio clip about LB 142 is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2007 2:45pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Announces AMBER Alert Poster Contest Winners for National Missing Children's Day

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced the winners of the AMBER Alert poster contest in honor of National Missing Children's Day observed on May 25.

"A missing child is a parent's worst nightmare," Bruning said. "Talking to our kids in school and at home about ways to stay safe is the best way to protect them."

Nebraska fifth-graders were invited to participate in the contest to raise awareness about the AMBER Alert as part of AMBER Alert Awareness Month in January. The theme for this year's poster competition was: *Bring Our Missing Children Home*. The winning artwork was submitted for a national contest hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Below are the three winners:

First Place: Andrianna Meyer, 11, of Blue Hill Public School.

Second Place: Sierra Barrios, 11, of St. Matthews Evangelist School in Bellevue.

Third Place: Haley Harsin, 10, of Syracuse Elementary School.

Nebraska currently distributes child abduction alerts via several media sources, including 45 overhead electronic message boards along Interstate-80, the 511 advance traveler information phone system and the NETV Emergency Broadcast System. At this time, more than 120 radio and television stations and 180 local law enforcement agencies participate in the Nebraska AMBER Plan. Over 1,100 Nebraska Lottery vendors statewide are able to notify customers during an AMBER Alert. In January, the first traveler information kiosk with AMBER Alert updates was installed on the Interstate-80 corridor.

Over 75 Nebraska businesses receive Amber Alert notification over e-mail, and private individuals can subscribe to AMBER Alert notifications via e-mail or text messages on the Nebraska State Patrol's web site, www.nsp.state.ne.us.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2007, 5:00 pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Former Clarkson City Clerk Enters Plea For Stealing City Funds

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced former Clarkson City Clerk Lorraine Smith, 56, pleaded no contest to one felony charge of theft by unlawful taking in Colfax County District Court today. Smith stole more than \$10,000 in city funds between October 2003 and August 2005.

"Clarkson residents placed their trust in Ms. Smith, and she ignored it," Bruning said. "When public officials in Nebraska violate the public trust, they will be held accountable."

According to internal city and Nebraska State Patrol investigations, the city reimbursed Smith's personal health insurance premiums as a part of her employment benefits package. Although her insurance rates dropped, she continued over-billing the city and collecting premium reimbursements at higher rates. By 2005, she was collecting up to \$840.65 per month above her actual insurance costs. In total, the city overpaid Smith \$10,419.34 in insurance reimbursements. In August 2005, the 13-year city employee was terminated as city clerk.

When over \$1,500 is stolen, theft by unlawful taking is a class III felony, punishable by one to 20 years in prison, a \$25,000 fine, or both. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for July 18 in Colfax County District Court. Assistant Attorney General Jeff Gaertig is handling the case.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2007 4:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MySpace to Turn Over Sex Offender Names to Nebraska

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced social networking site MySpace will send Nebraska names and other information it gathered on thousands of convicted sex offenders found using its Web site.

Bruning will share this information with law enforcement to check for potential parole violations by offenders who may be barred from using a computer or contacting minors.

"Predators go where the kids are, and millions of kids are on MySpace," Bruning said "If we can keep one child from meeting a sexual predator online, our efforts have been successful."

MySpace has agreed to continue searching its site for registered sex offenders and to give Nebraska information about all offenders, including their e-mail and IP addresses.

On May 14, a working group of attorneys general from 52 states and territories, including Nebraska, sent a letter to MySpace demanding that the company turn over information about sex offenders. MySpace has confirmed that Sentinel Tech Holdings identified thousands of registered sex offenders as members of the site. Though MySpace deleted these users from its site, it has preserved information about them.

The working group, formed in May of 2006, encourages social networking sites to do a better job protecting children from threats such as sexual predators and inappropriate content. Since the group's inception, MySpace has begun screening profiles for inappropriate content and making certain profiles private. The attorneys general are also urging MySpace to require parental permission for children to use its site, among other safety steps. The states remain concerned about sex offenders who may be on the site using an alias and fake age.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2007 3:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Home Health Assistant Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud Scheme

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Deanna Timothy 40, of McCool Junction, was sentenced to XX in prison and a XX fine for one count of theft by deception. Timothy billed Nebraska Medicaid for services she did not render while providing home health care.

“There are consequences for stealing from

An Attorney General’s office investigation determined that, between October 2004 and October 2005, Timothy billed Medicaid for \$7804 for services during hours that she was actually working at another job. She had been contracted by Nebraska Medicaid to provide personal care assistant and home health services to a Medicaid recipient in York County.

Timothy pleaded to guilty to the charge on April 2 in York County District Court. Theft by unlawful taking is a Class IV felony. Assistant Attorney General Mark Collins handled the case.

###

An audio clip about the sentence is posted on the Attorney General’s Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2006, 9:45am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Attorney General Bruning Applauds Water Resources Development Act Passage

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today praised the U.S. Senate for its passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 late yesterday.

The bill contains important provisions that protect Nebraska's economic interests in the Missouri River.

"This bill is worth \$500 million annually in economic benefit to Nebraska," Bruning said. "It strikes the right balance between the recreational, economic and environmental interests throughout the Missouri River basin."

The Attorney General's office in 2006 won a lengthy court battle to secure approval of the Army Corps of Engineers' new plan for river management. That plan includes Nebraska's proposal for balanced river operations.

The Attorney General's office also led the effort to draft language for the Missouri River portions of the bill and built a coalition of support for the legislation among all eight states in the Missouri River basin.

The bill now proceeds to conference committee between the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

###

An audio clip related to the passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 can be found on the attorney general's website at www.ago.state.ne.us.

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning

Consumer News

May 16, 2007

Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Summer Vacation

The school year is winding down, and Nebraskans are beginning to plan their summer vacations. We all want to save a few dollars on travel, but don't let that leave you the victim of a costly scam.

You may be receiving letters, calls, e-mails or faxes indicating that you are the winner of a free vacation or that you are eligible for a discounted vacation package. Be very careful responding to these offers. Many consumers eventually end up discovering the "vacation of their dreams" is their worst nightmare.

In some cases, consumers arrive at the hotel and either find substandard accommodations or find that their hotel is unavailable. They are then offered the chance to "upgrade" for an additional fee. They may find their "cruise to the Bahamas" is a four-hour ferry boat ride with no "luxury" state rooms and poor quality food. Even worse, some consumers arrive at the airport or hotel and discover they have no reservations.

Here are some tips for considering vacation offers:

- Do not give your bank account information or credit card numbers to a solicitor without researching the company. (Visit the Better Business Bureau Web site at www.bbb.org, or call the BBB in Omaha at 402-391-7535.)
- Before you sign up, ask what the price covers (airfare, hotel, meals), how many people are included, if there are restrictions on travel dates, and about any additional charges not included in the price.
- Get the name, address and phone number of the hotel, and check the facility's rating in a travel guide.
- Ask the company to put the offer in writing.
- Beware of inquiries about your income; the trip may actually be part of a pitch to sell time-share properties.

For the best chances of a worry-free vacation, we suggest you consult a travel agent or do your own planning directly with the airlines and hotels.

For more information about travel scams, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, toll free at (800) 727-6432 or visit our Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.

Best wishes,



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska

For more information, contact:
Consumer Protection Division
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Toll Free: 1.800.727.6432
Email: nedoj@ago.ne.gov

En Espanol:
1.888.850.7555
Llamada gratuita en Nebraska
Senior Outreach Hotline:
1.888.287.0778
Web site: www.ago.ne.gov

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to holley.hatt@ago.ne.gov, by nedoj@ago.ne.gov
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Attorney General's Office | 2115 State Capitol | Lincoln | NE | 68509



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2007 5:15pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Former Chadron Police Dispatcher Sentenced in Child Death

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that former Chadron Police dispatcher Kent Fleischmann, 25, of Chadron was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in prison for child abuse resulting in death. The sentencing occurred in Dawes County District Court today.

“Mr. Fleischmann will have plenty of time in prison to think about the pain he’s inflicted on this family,” Bruning said. “But no amount of time behind bars will make up for the innocent life that was lost.”

On Sept. 12, 2006, Fleischmann was caring for his girlfriend’s nine-month-old baby. At midnight, he placed a call to the Chadron Police Department to say he was taking the baby to the hospital. The infant died the following day of a fracture to the left side of the skull and cranial bleeding.

Fleischmann pleaded guilty to the child abuse charge on March 22. Child abuse resulting in death is a class IB felony.

The Attorney General’s Criminal Bureau Chief John Freudenberg and Dawes County Attorney Vance Haug handled the case.

###

An audio clip about the sentence is posted on the Attorney General’s Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2007, 1:30pm CDT

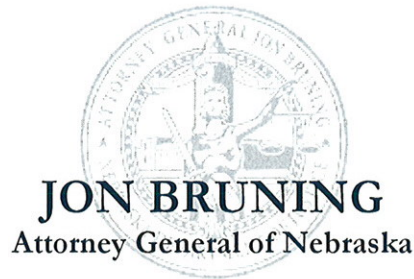
Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Attorney General Bruning to Speak to County
Attorneys Association at 1 p.m. in the Ballroom
of the Holiday Inn, 110-2nd Ave., in Kearney
Wednesday, May 16.**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning will address members of the Nebraska County Attorneys Association at their annual spring training seminar on Wednesday, May 16, at 1 p.m., in the Ballroom, at the Holiday Inn, 110-2nd Ave., in Kearney.

###



Guest Column: May 14, 2007

Contact: Holley Hatt, 402-471-2067

Don't Let Travel Scams Ruin Your Vacation

By Jon Bruning, Nebraska Attorney General

The school year is winding down, and Nebraskans are beginning to plan their summer vacations. We all want to save a few dollars on travel, but don't let that leave you the victim of a costly scam.

You may be receiving letters, calls, e-mails or faxes indicating that you are the winner of a free vacation or that you are eligible for a discounted vacation package. Be very careful responding to these offers. Many consumers eventually end up discovering the "vacation of their dreams" is their worst nightmare.

In some cases, consumers arrive at the hotel and either find substandard accommodations or find that their hotel is unavailable. They are then offered the chance to "upgrade" for an additional fee. They may find their "cruise to the Bahamas" is a four-hour ferry boat ride with no "luxury" state rooms and poor quality food. Even worse, some consumers arrive at the airport or hotel and discover they have no reservations.

Here are some tips for considering vacation offers:

- Do not give your bank account information or credit card numbers to a solicitor without researching the company. (Visit the Better Business Bureau Web site at www.bbb.org, or call the BBB in Omaha at 402-391-7535.)
- Before you sign up, ask what the price covers (airfare, hotel, meals), how many people are included, if there are restrictions on travel dates, and about any additional charges not included in the price.
- Get the name, address and phone number of the hotel, and check the facility's rating in a travel guide.
- Ask the company to put the offer in writing.
- Beware of inquiries about your income; the trip may actually be part of a pitch to sell time-share properties.

For the best chances of a worry-free vacation, we suggest you consult a travel agent or do your own planning directly with the airlines and hotels.

For more information about travel scams, contact our Consumer Protection Division, toll free at (800) 727-6432 or by visiting our Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2007 10:30am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Applauds Supreme Court Ruling in School Funding Case

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling in a school funding lawsuit brought by a coalition of Nebraska schools.

“The bottom line is that the elected legislators are in a better position to make these decisions than the courts,” Bruning said. “I’m anxious for the day we stop spending money on lawsuits and start spending it on educating our kids.”

###

An audio clip of the Attorney General’s statement is posted on the Attorney General’s Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2007 4:00pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Reaches \$719,500 Settlement with Drug Company Over Advertising Practices

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today filed a \$719,500 settlement in Lancaster County District Court with Purdue Pharma (Purdue) regarding its advertising practices for the narcotic pain medication, OxyContin.

The settlement resolves the concerns of 26 state attorneys general. They alleged that Purdue was advertising the drug to doctors for more frequent use than the Food and Drug Administration's approved dosages, an illegal practice known as "off-label" advertising. The states also alleged Purdue failed to adequately disclose abuse and diversion risks associated with the drug in violation of the states' respective consumer protection statutes.

"Purdue pushed doctors to prescribe OxyContin often and generously and downplayed the risks of abuse and addiction," Bruning said. "This settlement reminds drug companies that they have a responsibility for the safety of their customers."

The settlement requires Purdue to market and promote OxyContin only in line with FDA-approved uses. It also requires that the company establish an "OxyContin Abuse and Diversion Detection Program" to detect problem prescribing and train employees about their legal responsibilities before promoting the drug. The settlement prohibits Purdue from making any false, misleading or deceptive claim regarding OxyContin.

Under the settlement, Purdue will pay \$19,500,000 to states involved in the investigation. Nebraska was awarded \$719,500 for attorneys' fees, investigation costs and consumer education.

Nebraska took a lead role in the Purdue investigation. Consumer Protection Chief Leslie Levy handled the investigation and settlement negotiations.

###

An audio clip about the settlement is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2007 4:45pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Applauds Passage of Republican River Basin Study in U.S. House

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded the passage of H.R. 1025, a bill that authorizes the Secretary of Interior to study water use in the Republican River Basin. The study will determine whether the area is a candidate for a water supply and conservation project through the Interior Department.

Rep. Adrian Smith of Nebraska co-sponsored the legislation.

"I appreciate Congressman Smith's leadership," Bruning said. "The difficulties facing the Republican River Basin are complex and deserve attention at all levels of government. I am hopeful the Senate is as forward-thinking as the House on this matter."

In 1998, the state of Kansas filed suit against Colorado and Nebraska over water levels in the Republican River. Following that lawsuit, the Attorney General's office worked with Nebraska's congressional delegation to encourage federal attention to the struggling area. In 2006, the Attorney General's office testified before the House Natural Resources Committee on H.R. 1025 (then H.R. 4750.)

###

An audio clip about the legislation is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2007, Noon CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Bruning To Speak at Domestic Violence
Conference at Tumbleweed Café, 850 E. South
E St., in Broken Bow, Neb., at 9 a.m. CDT
TUESDAY, May 8.**

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning will welcome participants to a conference for *Improving Community Response to Domestic Violence in Nebraska* at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 8, in Broken Bow, Neb. The conference will be held at Tumbleweed Café, 850 E. South E St.

The conference will focus on police protocol, victim assistance, prosecution methods in rural communities and offender accountability. The event is organized by the Nebraska Department of Justice. Participants will include county attorneys, law enforcement officers, first responders, and victim advocates from Adams, Blaine, Custer, Dawes, Douglas, Greeley, Hall, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Seward, Sherman and Valley counties.

Project partners include the Nebraska State Patrol and the Nebraska Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2007, 2:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Attorney General Bruning to Speak at Central
Community College Commencement at 3 p.m.
in the Hastings Campus Gymnasium, E. Hwy. 6
Saturday, May 5.**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning will address the graduates of Central Community College at their commencement ceremony at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, in Hastings. The ceremony will be held in the Hastings Campus gymnasium located in the Dawson Building, E. Hwy 6.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2007, 2:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Attorney General Bruning to Speak at Central
Community College Commencement at 11 a.m.
at the Grand Island Senior High School,
2124 N. Lafayette Ave., in Grand Island
Saturday, May 5.**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning will address the graduates of Central Community College at their commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, in Grand Island. The ceremony will be held at the Grand Island Senior High School, 2124 N. Lafayette Ave.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2007, 11:45am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Attorney General Bruning to Recognize
National Day of Prayer at 6:40 a.m. at The
Leadership Center, 1609 E. Hwy 34, in Aurora
Thursday, May 3.**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning is the guest speaker for the Aurora Community Prayer Breakfast at 6:40 a.m. Thursday, May 3, at The Leadership Center, 1609 E. Hwy 34, in Aurora.

The breakfast will recognize the National Day of Prayer, which occurs on the first Thursday in May every year.

###